

REMARKS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated July 8, 2003, the shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 8, 2003. This response is submitted on that due date and accordingly, no Petition or Fee for Extension of time are believed necessary. However, in the event that the Commissioner determines that an extension of time is necessary, the undersigned hereby petitions for the required extension of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any require fee to the Milbank Deposit account 13-3250.

I. Status of the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6, an 11-17, and add new claims 23-26 as indicated above. Claims 1-26 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are independent claims.

New claims 23-26 correspond substantially to claims 2, 6, 12 and 16, which the Examiner has objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. For that reason, the applicant submits that the new claims are allowable.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Keiichi Chihara (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,316). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Chihara teaches determining whether or not the devoicing processing is to be executed depending on the level of the speech rate. It appears that the Examiner corresponds the processing for prosody control of the claimed invention to the devoicing processing of Chihara.

The Applicant submits that the claimed prosody control processing is not the same as devoicing processing.

Claims 1 and 11 are characterized by processing for prosody control for a selected small speech segment of a plurality of small speech segments extracted from a speech waveform. This feature effectively prevents a deterioration in synthesized speech introduced by a waveform editing operation.

The devoicing processing of Chihara is executed during generation of parameters, which are used for generating speech synthesis waveform (see the prosody generation module 102 in Figs. 1 and 2 of Chihara). The devoicing processing of Chihara edits parameters used for generating speech waveform in the speech generation module (see 103 in Fig. 1 of Chihara). In contrast, the claimed processing for prosody control is applied to small speech segments extracted from a speech waveform (by using a window function). In Chihara, any processing for prosody control is executed in the speech generation module 103, and does not include devoicing processing. Accordingly, the applicant submits that devoicing processing of Chihara is fundamentally different from the features of claims 1, 11, 21 and 22.

For these reasons, the applicant submits that Chihara does not disclose or suggest the elements of claims 1, 11, 21 and 22.

III. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

PATENT

Docket No.: ~~36409-01000~~

Respectfully submitted,
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